

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A boom for a loader, comprising: a carrier arrangement including a first carrier, a second carrier and an extension carrier; said first carrier having one end adapted for being fastened to a frame of the loader for pivoting vertically about a horizontal axis, ~~and~~ having a second end defined by a first attaching flange, and defining a receptacle adapted for selectively receiving said second carrier in a guided, telescoping manner; said second carrier having an exposed end defined by a second attaching flange; ~~an~~ said extension carrier having opposite ends respectively defined by third and fourth ~~a second~~ attaching flanges, ~~flange~~ with said third attaching flange being adapted for abutting and being selectively releasably fastened either to said first attaching flange, in the absence of said second carrier, or to said second attaching flange, when said second carrier is installed; and a front piece adapted for being fastened to a tool and including a mating flange adapted for abutting and being releasably secured to one of said first, second and fourth ~~third~~ attaching flanges, whereby said extension may be selectively attached to said first carrier or to said second carrier and said front piece may alternatively be attached either to said first carrier or said second carrier or to said extension.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (original) The boom, as defined by claim 1, wherein said front piece includes at least one cast component.

6. (original) The boom, as defined in claim 5, wherein said front piece is generally configured as a cast component.

7. (currently amended) The boom, as defined in claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said first and at least second carriers are each configured as one of round, box or multi-edge profiles.

8. (currently amended) The boom, as defined in claim 1 4, wherein said carrier arrangement includes a central, longitudinal axis; and each attaching and each mating flange of said carrier arrangement extends one of toward said longitudinal axis, or away from said longitudinal axis from respective outer surface regions of said carrier arrangement.

9. (original) The boom, as defined in claim 8, wherein each of said attaching and mating flanges are arranged one of perpendicular or inclined to said longitudinal axis.

10. (original) The boom, as defined in claim 1, wherein one of said attaching and mating flanges is provided with a first set of threaded holes, and another of said attaching and mating flanges is provided with a second set of holes which are aligned with said first set of holes; and a set of screws releasably securing said mating and attaching flanges together.